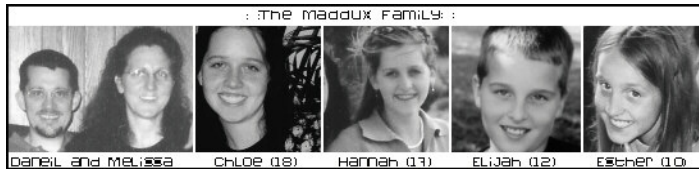


# Mozambique

## An Open Door of Opportunity for the Harvest and Leadership Training

And this gospel ... will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the **end** will come. (Matthew 24:14)



Daniel and Melissa Maddux, Chloe, Hannah, Elijah, & Esther  
816-729-3939 – Belton, MO – hearttransform@yahoo.com

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Mt 10:36-38

Mozambique is a most challenging and exciting opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus. Melissa and I had the privilege of making a survey trip there from July 16<sup>th</sup> through August 7<sup>th</sup>. We spent most of our time among missionaries in Nampula in the north. The missionaries of "Good News For Africa" have invited us to be a part of their family. [Please pray for us](#) as we consider what the Lord desires to accomplish through us among the largest unreached animistic people group in the world – the Makua. We ask for God's blessing to be able to leave by the end of 2006, raising support until then. Now I'd like to tell you a little about us and the country.

**Daniel:** The Lord really moved my heart to tears for the harvest as a 16 year old in Brazil. For the next three years, before returning to the US, the Lord enabled me to share the gospel with many young people and over 20 followed Christ. My heart continues to eagerly desire to spread the gospel and train leaders in those Christ brings.

**Melissa:** I grew up as a religious Roman Catholic and became a Christian at the age of 19. At that time I studied Spanish in a Junior College with the intention of being a missionary in South America – without wholly understanding what that would mean. We rejoice in the work God has done in our lives since then and we believe the time as come for us to go.



**Location:** On the SE coast of Africa directly west of Madagascar.



**Size:** About  
Twice the size of California OR  
Four times the size KS or MO

**Population:** 19 ½ Million

**Life Expectancy:** 40 years  
(only 2.8% is 65 or older)

**Literacy:** 47%

**Poverty:** On the top 10 list of poorest in the world.

**Doctors:** Only 500 and mostly in larger cities.

**Infrastructure:** Only about 2000 miles of good paved

**Spiritual:** Makua (4 Mil) are listed in the top 100 most unreached – ancestor worship, witchcraft, and immorality are rampant.

The Portuguese held colonial rule over Mozambique for 470 years. During that time the Roman Catholic Church controlled the religious scene. Only in the late 1800's were a few Christian missionaries let in<sup>1</sup>, and then only in restricted areas mostly in the southern and central areas. Northern Mozambique is largely Muslim and animistic (i.e. everything in nature has a soul).

When independence was established in 1975, instead of greater religious freedom, a great persecution of Christians occurred because the newly formed government invited the communists in. Only 7 doctors were left in the country at that time. The Russians were finally sent home in the mid-1980s, but civil war continued to rack the country. In 1992 the war came to an end.

Residue of the effects of communism is everywhere. As one drives through the capital city of Maputo, on streets with names such as Kim Il Sung Avenue, and Karl Marx Boulevard, deteriorating buildings compete for space with honeycombs of mud and thatch wall huts that extend maze-like further than the eye can follow. Petty crime is rampant, driven by pervasive poverty. Property may be lost, but intentional violence is not common, at least until this past January.

Into this country ravaged by political and economic mismanagement, missionaries have come to bring the good news of hope, of life. There seems to be so much poverty, so much illiteracy, and such a tendency for the nationals to seek a handout, that the labor is often frustrating. Missionaries labor, nevertheless, one contact at a time.<sup>2</sup>

The challenges faced then are:

Poverty: Because of the extreme poverty and few resources, all kinds of requests from the churches are made for assistance. My mother, Patty Maddux, with my Dad's passing due to bone cancer, is training to be an LPN with plans of also going to Mozambique to bless people there. As an LPN she will be able to do MUCH!

Illiteracy: There are very few biblical resources and few who can read them. Only 2% have Portuguese as their mother tongue and 30% as a second language. In the cities 60% are illiterate and in rural areas this increases to 77%.<sup>3</sup> Only a small percentage of the Makua are believers. While they have an older translation available, few can afford it or are educated enough to read it. Melissa would like to develop a reading primer for them. The leaders then will need spurred on to supremely treasure the written word and to get a Bible into every home for daily bread.

Leadership Training and Unreached people: One missionary told me that while you'll see some of the greatest testimonies of true change in Christ, you'll also see about every kind of sin imaginable. It's true! The culture expects those reaching puberty to be sexually active – looking for a mate. This immorality along with satanic superstitions often continues in the church and greatly affects its condition. Churches and their leaders are in dire need of the word of God – printed and soundly taught. Most of them have only a partial grade school education and are urgently requesting more training. Much needs to be done to help the existing small churches grow spiritually and to reach their own people with the pure gospel of salvation in Christ.

☺ Please let us know how you or your church might be interested in helping reach these people.

May God richly bless you to know Christ intimately and to bless others with Him!

Informational Links:

<http://www.makuateam.org/id183.htm>

<http://makuateam.org/MT/MakuaTeam/id56.htm>

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/mz.html>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.evangelical-times.org/Articles/sep01/Sep01a06.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.missionarycare.org/reports/january2000.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://217.206.205.24/resources/publications/EA12Eng/mozambique.htm>